



NEWS RELEASE

18-141c REVISION

Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018
District: 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



REVISION

Cranston Fire Road Closure Status State Routes 74 and 243

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in partnership with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Riverside County Sheriff, Riverside County Emergency Management, United States Forest Service, Cal-Fire, Riverside County Fire, Idyllwild Fire Department and Southern California Edison (So Cal Edison) are announcing the partial opening of State Routes 74 and 243 (SR 74 and SR 243). The **Cranston Fire is 92% contained** and has burned 13,139 acres to date.

SR 74 remains closed from Valle Vista (east of Hemet) to Lake Hemet. SR 243 remains closed from Lower Saunders Meadow to SR 74.

BEGINNING TODAY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, AT 8:00 A.M., RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES OF BUSINESSES FOR THE LAKE HEMET/MOUNTAIN CENTER/APPLE CANYON COMMUNITITES AND EVACUATED AREAS FOR THE CRANSTON FIRE WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF SR'S 74 AND 243.

THERE IS NO ACCESS ON SR 243 TO OR FROM IDYLLWILD FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES. PLEASE USE SR 243 FROM BANNING TO REACH YOUR DESTINATION.

- SR 74 will reopen from Lake Hemet to Mountain Center down to Mc Gaugh Road with pilot car escort 24/7 until further notice.
- SR 243 will reopen from SR 74 to Keen Wild (San Jacinto Ranger Station in Idyllwild) **without pilot car** escort until further notice.

Again, proof of residency and/or employment status is required. All motorists must use the pilot car escort for access due to the continuing work of So Cal Edison, Caltrans and the fire crews. Be advised that So Cal Edison will continue work to restore power to the area and will have traffic holds and flagging within the open sections of SR's 74 and 243. Ames Construction will also be working to remove and reinstall guardrail, signs and other repairs on both routes.

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The CHP is assisting Ames Construction and So Cal Edison employees with pilot car and flagging operations. Motorists are advised to follow all commands and instructions from the work crews and law enforcement. The speed limit will be reduced during the traffic control and pilot car escort and there will be occasional traffic holds within the work zones. Please have patience and be aware that this will continue to be an active work zone in the coming weeks and that we are all working together to restore the communities as quickly as possible.

Residents are advised that power has not been restored to all areas and those areas with power may experience rolling black outs. Caltrans is advising motorists that in the event of storm activity or any other unforeseen events, these roads are subject to closure. Caltrans and CHP will continue to provide updates when new information becomes available.

We thank you for your cooperation and patience during the Cranston Fire and the recovery period. Our main priority is keeping you and your loved ones safe throughout this process.

National Weather Service (Flash Flooding): <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-hazards>

Weather: <http://www.weather.gov/>

Road Closures: <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> and <http://www.rctlma.org/trans/>

Riverside County Emergency Management: <http://www.rvcfire.org>

San Bernardino National Forest closure: <https://goo.gl/9hh7ef>

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